

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the claims have been amended to introduce expressions with “a” so as to provide antecedent basis, and to replace “it” by a reference to the respective antecedent. Also, indicia “V,” “Vref,” “ $\Sigma$ ,” and “M” have been consistently presented in parentheses, greek letters designating parameters have also been presented in parentheses, “such that” has been replaced by “so that,” terms in quotation marks have been presented without those quotation marks, and “characterized in that” has been replaced by “wherein.”

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite the claimed features positively in separate paragraphs and to clarify (i) an electrical regulation module regulating the voltage across the terminals of the capacitor, and (ii) the electrical regulation module acts on torques of both the two electrical machines, either separately or simultaneously, and in any case continuously.

Further, new claims 12-17 have been added. Claim 12 corresponds to claim 3 rewritten in independent form with clarifications to address objections and indefiniteness rejection as in amended claims 1, 2, and 3. Claims 13 and 14 correspond to claims 4 and 5, respectively, but depend on claims 12 and 13, respectively. Claims 15-17 correspond to claim 6 but depend on claims 12, 13, and 14, respectively.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this Office Action. Claims 1 and 12 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claim 1 and claims 2-5 and 7-8 are objected to. In particular, the presence of “reference characters” without parentheses in claims 2-5 and 7-8, the expressions “the two electrical machines,” “the other,” “this connecting device,” “such that,” and “the transfer,” and the use of quotation marks in claims 1-5 and 7-8, are objected to.

The indicia “V,” “Vref,” “ $\Sigma$ ,” and “M” have been consistently presented in parentheses, and greek letters designating parameters have also been presented in parentheses. Further, new terms have been introduced by “a” instead of “the,” “such that” has been replaced by “so that,” and terms in quotation marks have been presented without those quotation marks. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objections should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, the claims are objected to as “narrative,” “non-idiomatic,” and “non-sensical,” as failing to provide antecedent basis for several expressions, and as lacking clarity in using the pronoun “it.”

The claims have been amended to recite the claimed features positively in separate paragraphs, to introduce elements with “a” so as to provide antecedent basis, and to replace “it” by a reference to the respective antecedent. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-2, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by FR 2811944 to Laeuffer (“Laeuffer”). In particular, reference is made in the Office Action to Fig. 3 of the corresponding JP2002-112407 (in its JPO machine-translation).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. As discussed extensively in the introduction to the present specification (starting on page 2, line 14), Laeuffer completely fails to teach or suggest a system that is capable of acting on the torque of each of the two electrical machines, either separately or simultaneously, and in any case continuously, as in the presently claimed invention.

Specifically, in Laeuffer, the action is on electrical machine 30 in a first embodiment, or on electrical machine 20 in a second embodiment, but not on both, as explained in details in the introduction to the present specification (see the present specification on page 4, lines 11-26). It is noted that the passage from page 11, line 31 to page 12, line 7 of Laeuffer (FR2811944), which is discussed on page 4 of the present specification, corresponds to para. 0080 in the JPO machine-translation of Laeuffer.

The features of the presently claimed invention have been clarified as follows. As recited in present claim 1, the system of the present invention comprises an electrical regulation module regulating the voltage across the terminals of the capacitor, and the electrical regulation module acts on torques of both the two electrical machines, either separately or simultaneously, and in any case continuously. In contrast, since Laeuffer is limited to action on one electrical machine, Laeuffer completely fails to teach or suggest a regulation module as in the presently claimed invention, and specifically a regulation that acts continuously from any one of the electrical machines to the other machine or to both machines simultaneously. Therefore, the present claims are not anticipated by, and not obvious over, Laeuffer.

Amendment  
Serial No. 10/536,969  
Attorney Docket No. WEI0215006

In addition, with respect to claims 12-17, it is submitted that claim 12 incorporates the features of original claims 1, 2, and 3, whereas claim 3 is indicated to contain allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 12-17 are immediately allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment  
Serial No. 10/536,969  
Attorney Docket No. WEI0215006

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 502759.

Respectfully submitted,

/nicolas seckel/

---

Nicolas E. Seckel  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 44,373

Nicolas E. Seckel  
Patent Attorney  
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 669-5169  
Fax: (202) 822-1257  
Customer No.: 29980  
NES/rep